

REMARKS

Claims 131 – 158 are pending in the application.

Applicant has amended the claims so as to more clearly recite the unique features of the present invention. It may be noted that the feature of amended Claim 156 wherein said home data includes "a respective service profile retrieved from said home network which may be used to provide a visitor portal page customized for a respective roaming mobile telephony device using said service profile" is similar to that already recited in Claim 131. It is submitted, therefore, that the new claims are fully supported in the present application and thus do not constitute new matter. Applicant has also taken this opportunity to correct minor typographical errors appearing in the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

In this section of the Office Action, Claims 131-158 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith, U.S. Patent No. 6,771,971. It is submitted that Claims 131 (and Claims 132-145 dependent thereon), 146 (and Claims 147-155 dependent thereon), and 156 (and Claims 157-158 dependent thereon) are patentable, in the light of arguments set forth below.

The present application deals with roaming mobile telephony devices, and means for providing them with content and services whilst roaming, wherein the content services are based on a user service profile held at the home network.

It is common in the known art for users of digital services, when at their home networks and not roaming, to be led initially to a portal page that is provided by the cellular network to which he is connected. The portal is defined in the Princetown University Wordnet project as follows:

"portal site: a site that the owner positions as an entrance to other sites on the internet; "a portal typically has search engines and free email and chat rooms etc."
wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn.

Numerous other sources are available for definitions of the term portal, and one was provided to the Examiner in the previous response. Typical portals offers the user links to news services, weather, games etc. The portal page may

even be customized for particular preferences of the user, for example his favorite news service or the weather for his region.

When a user is roaming, the portal pages provided by the roaming network are not necessarily that useful. They are often in a language that is not understood or provide news that is not relevant, and completely fail to provide any customization for the roaming user because the roaming network does not know the roaming user. On the other hand the user could be led to his home portal page. However the home portal page may have information that is now irrelevant as he is roaming. For example it may have weather information which is of course irrelevant to the country in which he is roaming.

The present invention as claimed in independent Claims 131, 146, and 156 (amended) therefore provides for *an interfacing system which identifies particular users as roaming users and directs them to a portal specifically for roaming users*. The system providing the portal is able to identify the home network of the user and retrieve a profile of the user from the home network to use in customizing the portal for the user. The system generates a portal page which is customized for the particular user. First of all it may be in the user's language and secondly it may include certain services from the user's home network. He may for example want news from home but local weather. So the generated portal page would then contain links to a service providing news from home and a service providing local weather.

US Patent No. 6,771,971 to Smith teaches modifications to a Home Location Register (HLR) such that it includes a location register for storing location information for the subscriber (column 3, line 39). The subscriber profile is downloaded from the HLR to a temporary subscriber record in the Mobile Switching Center (MSC) (column 4, line 42), the subscriber profile including location information to selected parties. A mobile subscriber, MS1, operating in the MSC's service area may request location information regarding another mobile subscriber, MS2, also operating in the MSC's service area. If the MSC determines that the requesting MS1 is authorized to receive the location information regarding MS2, then a message generator responds to the query of MS1, sending the requested location information and time of last update, either via an SMS message or a voice announcement (column 4, line 32).

It is noted that MS2 is part of the same network as the HLR and MS1 and since both subscribers 68 and 74 are connected to MSC2 via base station 71 they are both connected to the same network as the home gateway. It is therefore clearly and unambiguously concluded that Fig. 5 does not teach a mobile device at a roaming network.

It is noted that reference numeral 77, which the Examiner relies upon in his attempt to argue that the portal page is known, is not at all a portal. Rather it is for providing to a third party the current call status of the user. On the contrary, a portal is defined as "a site that the owner positions as an entrance to other sites on the internet" as mentioned above. A web page that states "user currently on call," is simply not a portal page, since it does not lead to other sites on the Internet.

Thus the teaching of Smith is quite different from the present invention as claimed in f Claim 131, which recites "A visitor portal at a roaming network for supporting data communication from roaming mobile telephony devices, said mobile telephony devices being associated with respective home networks and with respective service profiles, and being able to roam non-home networks, said visitor portal comprising: a page provider at a respective roaming mobile network being configured to retrieve a respective service profile from said home network and further configured to use said service profile to provide a visitor portal page customized for a respective roaming mobile telephony device using said service profile; and an interface configured to direct said respective mobile telephony device to said customized visitor portal page at said roaming mobile network, thereby to support data communication according to said service profile for said roaming mobile telephony device."

Definitions of "web portal" and "portal page", were provided to the Examiner in the response to the previous Office Action. If the Examiner is using a different definition of the term portal than that evidenced by the above citation of the use of the term in the art, then the Examiner is respectfully asked to supply such definition to the applicant so that the applicant can comment.

The device to Smith also differs significantly from the present invention of Claim 146, which recites "A system for supporting roaming data communication, said system comprising a network having home mobile device users and non-home mobile device users and a visitor portal at a mobile roaming network for non-home users, said non-home users having respective user profiles at their home networks,

said system being operable to connect a non-home user to said visitor portal at said roaming mobile network, said visitor portal at said roaming mobile network configured to extract said user profile from a corresponding home network and to use said user profile to provide said non-home user with a portal page at said roaming mobile network to appear on a screen of a respective mobile device therethrough to provide access to services according to said user service profile."

The present invention thus provides for *an interfacing system which identifies particular users as roaming users and directs them to a portal specifically for roaming users.* The system providing the portal is able to identify the home network of the user and retrieve a profile of the user from the home network to use in customizing the portal for the user. The system generates a portal page which is customized for the particular user. This is neither shown nor suggested by Smith. It is stressed once again that the term "portal page" refers to a web page that contains links to other web sites. This definition has been provided above in the present response and was also provided in applicant's response to the previous office action but Examiner has given no sign that he has noted it. By contrast Smith has

- 1) no roaming user
- 2) no web portal
- 3) no portal page provided to the user.

In respect of 3) Smith merely provides a notification to a third party that the called party is currently engaged on another call.

The device to Smith also differs significantly from the present invention of amended Claim 156, which recites " A support network for supporting roaming of cellular communication devices in at least a first cellular network, each of said cellular communication devices having a respective home cellular network being other than said first cellular network, and there being at least one service network configured to provide data services between said at least first and said home cellular networks, said support network comprising: interfacing links to each of said cellular networks and each of said service networks; and a roaming support unit associated with said interfacing links configured to provide home data of roaming devices stored at said respective home network over said service network to a respective interfacing link of said first cellular network, said home data including a respective service profile retrieved from said home network usable to provide a visitor portal

page at a respective roaming mobile network, said visitor portal page being customized for a respective roaming mobile telephony device using said service profile."

Again, Smith fails to teach a roaming device, see definition given above, and also fails to teach a visitor portal, again as per the definition given above. The definitions given above are believed to be not merely common general knowledge but basic to the field in question.

The Examiner has suggested that elements 61, 67, and 79 of the device to Smith are similar to the page provider and interface of the present invention, as recited in Claim 131. With regard to this assumption, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Specifically, Smith teaches a Subscriber Information Service Center (SISC) 61 which stores a subscriber information profile 79, such that a subscriber profile (including the subscriber's mobile identification number, or MIN) and location information for mobile subscribers may be downloaded from an HLR 67 to the SISC (fig. 5 and column 7, line 45), as noted above. According to Smith, the querying subscriber may receive certain information regarding the other subscriber, such as MIN and location, and time of last location update (column 9, line 7). This is quite different from providing "a visitor portal page customized for a respective roaming mobile telephony device roaming at said respective roaming mobile network" as recited in amended Claim 131. The Examiner is reminded that the term visitor portal is defined as a web site that provides an entrance way to *other* web sites.

As to the Examiner's suggestion that elements 10, 42, and 61 to Smith are similar to elements recited in Claims 146 and 156, Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, Smith teaches a method whereby, when MS2 has traveled to another city, he is served by a Visited MSC which may be colocated with a Visitor Location Register (VLR) 42. The VLR functions in a manner similar to the HLR 10 (or HLR 67), discussed above. Again, according to Smith, while the querying subscriber may receive certain information regarding the other subscriber, such as MIN and location, and time of last location update (column 9, line 7). This is quite different from providing a "non-home user with a portal page to appear on a screen or a respective mobile device therethrough to provide access to services according to said user profile" as recited in Claim 146. The device to Smith is also quite different from providing "home data of roaming devices stored at said respective home

network over said service network to a respective interfacing link of said first cellular network, said home data including a respective service profile retrieved from said home network which may be used to provide a visitor portal page customized for a respective roaming mobile telephony device using said service profile," as recited in amended Claim 156.

Furthermore, just because the user is in a different city does not make him a non-home user since the network being used is still *the same network*. A non-home user is a user who is connected to a network *other than* the network to which he is registered. It is quite clear from Fig. 5 of Smith that the user is connected to the same network as that hosting HLR 67. Therefore both users 68 and 74 are home users, and do not qualify as non-home users or roaming users as per the pending claims.

A summary of definitions used is provided for the assistance of the Examiner. These definitions are commonly known in the art.

A *portal page* in the context of digital networks is defined as a page that provides *links to other websites*.

A *roaming network* in the context of cellular communications is a network that a cellular user is currently connected to which is other than the network to which the cellular user is registered to. Such a user not at his home network is referred to as a *roaming user*.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 131, 146, and 156 are not anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,771,971 to Smith, and are, therefore, allowable. It is additionally submitted that Claims 132-145, 147-155, 157-158 are believed to be allowable since they are dependent on allowable independent claims.

All of the issues raised by the Examiner have been dealt with. In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are allowable over the cited reference. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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